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Message Text

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41
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 /036 W
---------- 091143
P 231640Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7427

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0337

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, GB, US
SUBJ: AGREMENT FOR NEW GABONESE AMBASSADOR

1. GOG FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ASKED US FORMALLY TO TRANSMIT REQUEST FOR AGREMENT FOR PIERRE MEBALEY AS NEW GABONESE AMBASSADOR TO US.

2. ORIGINAL AGREMENT REQUEST, COPY OF WHICH BEING POUCHED AF/C, WAS EVIDENTLY SENT VIA OPEN MAIL DEC. 16 TO "AMERICAN STATE DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON." INFORMED BY EMBASSY THAT REQUEST HAD APPARENTLY NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED, MINISTRY HAS NOW ASKED US RE-SUBMIT REQUEST THROUGH USG CHANNELS.

3. ATTACHED CV SHOWS THAT MEBALEY, BORN 1936 IN PORT GENTIL, IS 1963 GRADUATE OF FRENCH INSTITUT DES HAUTES ETUDES D'OUTRE-MER. AFTER SERVING BRIEFLY AS SOUS-PREFET, HE MOVED FOR ONE YEAR TO DIPLOMATIC SERVICE, FIRST AS TRAINEE IN PARIS AND LONDON AND THEN AS SECGEN IN FONMIN. MEBALEY HELD SERIES MINISTERIAL POSTS BETWEEN 1965-70, WAS COMMISSIONER GENERAL FOR TORUSM 1970-71, AND AIR AFRIQUE REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR WEST AFRICA 1971-74. SINCE MARCH 1974, MEBALEY HAS BEEN RESIDENT IN KINSHASA AS AMBASSADOR TO ZAIRE AND 8 OTHER COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

4. MEBALEY IS MARRIED AND HAS THREE CHILDREN. HE
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SPEAKS ENGLISH AT ABOUT THE S-2 LEVEL IN ADDITION TO

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FRENCH.

5. INASMUCH AS MEBALEY IS BONGO'S PERSONAL CHOICE FOR
THIS POST, WITH DECLARED INTENTION OFFURTHER STRENGTHEN-
ING USG-GOG TIES, WOULD APPRECIATE EARLIEST POSSIBLE
FAVORABLE REPLY TO GABONESE REQUUAT FOR AGREMENT.STAUGMAN

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NNN

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Draft Date: 23 FEB 1976
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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